

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A solid, acid catalyst for the preparation of polytetrahydrofuran, polytetrahydrofuran copolymers, and diesters or monoesters of these polymers, by polymerization of tetrahydrofuran in the presence of at least one telogen and/or comonomer, said catalyst comprising a clay material which comprises at least 20% by weight of SiO_2 and at least one further oxide of an element selected from the group consisting of Al, Fe and the elements of groups III A to VII A of the Periodic Table, and wherein said catalyst further comprises a proportion of alkali-soluble silicon dioxide of from 20 to 85% by weight, where the catalyst has been calcined at from 150 to 800°C and has an N_2 pore volume of at least 0.35 cm^3/g for pore diameters in the range from 2 to 200 nm, with at least 0.2 cm^3/g of this N_2 pore volume being made up by pores having diameters in the range 5–50 nm and the mean BJH pore diameter (4V/A) of the pores in the range from 2 to 200 nm being from 2.0 to 10.0 nm, has a BET surface area of at least 160 m^2/g and has an acid center density of at least 0.25 mmol/g for pK_a values of from 1 to 6.
2. (Original) A catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clay material has a methylene blue value of at least 250 mg/g.
3. (Previously Presented) A catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the clay mineral is a sodium bentonite
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A catalyst as claimed in claim 2, wherein the clay mineral is a sodium bentonite.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)